



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS & SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

LATE SUMMER GUIDE 2010



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Discover · Protect · Connect

Three verbs lie at the heart of a great visit to your national parks: *discover* the park for yourself, *connect* to it on a personal level, and choose to *protect* it!

The number of people who can experience these parks this way is going up, thanks to a unique non-profit group. The Sequoia Parks Foundation raises funds for projects that make these parks easier to visit, via trails, exhibits, and classroom programs, to name just a few.

A few examples of their projects:

- reworking trails to make them more accessible for wheelchairs and anyone else who could use a smoother walking surface;
- support for trail-crew jobs that provide young people with experience, adventure, and career development while they improve the trails we all enjoy; and
- exhibits offering insight into the wonders of these parks to visitors of all ages, both outside along trails and inside Beetle Rock Education Center and other visitor centers.

The Foundation also works to take the national-park experience beyond park boundaries. They bring artists here to create park-based art, which the Foundation then shares with the public in other locations. They also reach out to schools. One of the most successful projects – *Rangers in the*



The Sequoia Parks Foundation supports “Rangers in the Classroom,” helping kids to discover these parks. Here, examining skulls and pelts from park wildlife opens their eyes to the links between animals and park habitat. As they learn more, suddenly the parks — and their own connection to them — start to come to life.

Classroom – helps to introduce Sequoia and Kings Canyon to students in some of the most under-served schools in the state.

Rangers in the Classroom touches thousands of children each year. These parks lie just beyond their backyards, yet most of the kids have never been here. Through curriculum-based programs, they discover a new world and start to see their role in protecting it. They get excited about coming here with their families and starting that personal connection that can last a lifetime.

Rangers travel as often as possible to as many classrooms as they can – doing so in vans that were donated with help from the Foundation and other partners.

Without assistance from the Foundation, many of these programs would be reduced or non-existent. In particular, *Rangers in the Classroom* relies on the Foundation, and more is needed.

The Sequoia Parks Foundation explores many avenues to raise funds. Check them out at www.sequoiaparksfoundation.org

from time to time; see what’s new. Find more ways that you can discover, protect, and connect with Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Then help others to do the same!